the embodiments shown in Figures 3c), 3d) and 3e), provision is made for slits 13 at different locations or in different sizes. The shown alterations of tongue 7, which can be effected by the users themselves, give rise to differences in the frequency spectrum which can be detected by the system, as tests have shown.

Page 8, first line change "What is claimed is" to --WHAT IS CLAIMED IS--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-11 as presented in the underlying international application no. PCT/EP00/04816 and add new claims 12-24 as follows:

--12. (new) An access-controlled system comprising:

a portable identification device including a signal generator device configured for generating a reproducible acoustic signal in a mechanical manner, the reproducible acoustic signal including a clacking noise, a frequency spectrum of the clacking noise encoding an information, the signal generator device including at least one of a tongue, a plate, and a curved surface configured for folding upon an overcoming of an initial resistance, the folding generating the clacking noise, the respective at least one of the tongue, the plate, and the curved surface further configured for springing back to a respective original position subsequent to being acted upon; and

a control unit configured for reading the encoded information and for allowing a user to access the access-controlled system upon an establishing of an identity of the identification device.

13. (new) The access-controlled system as recited in claim 12 wherein the control unit includes a microphone useable for feeding the acoustic signal to a computing unit configured for establishing the identification of the identification device.

14. (new) The access-controlled system as recited in claim 12 wherein the identification device includes a card.

15. (new) The access-controlled system as recited in claim 14 wherein the card includes a plastic material.

16. (new) The access-controlled system as recited in claim 14 wherein the card has dimensions of a credit card.

17. (new) The access-controlled system as recited in claim 12 wherein the identification device includes at least one of a membrane body and a resonator.

18. (new) The access-controlled system as recited in claim 12 wherein the control unit is configured for receiving a code.

19. (new) The access-controlled system as recited in claim 18 wherein the code is an acoustic PIN code.

20. (new) An identification device configured for use in an access-controlled system, the access-controlled system including a control unit configured for reading information encoded by the identification device and for allowing a user to access the access-controlled system upon an establishing of an identity of the identification device, the identification device comprising a signal generator device configured for generating a reproducible acoustic signal in a mechanical manner when acted upon by the user, the reproducible acoustic signal including a clacking noise, a frequency spectrum of the clacking noise encoding an information, the signal generator device including at least one of a tongue, a plate, and a curved surface configured for folding upon an overcoming of an initial resistance, the folding generating the clacking noise, the respective at least one of the tongue, the plate, and the curved surface further configured for springing back to a respective original position subsequent to being acted upon.

21. (new) The identification device as recited in claim 20 wherein an encoding of the information is a function of a respective shaping of the respective at least one of the tongue, the plate, and the curved surface.